

House of Commons Debates

THIRD SESSION—ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, January 19, 1911.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS—FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 92) respecting the Alberta Central Railway Company.—Mr. McCraney.

Bill (No. 93) to incorporate the Alberta Electric Railway Company.—Mr. McCarthy.

Bill (No. 94) respecting the Western Central Railway Company.—Mr. Rankin.

INDIAN ACT AMENDMENT—LINE FENCES.

Mr. SHARPE (Ontario) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 95) to amend the Indian Act.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Explain.

Mr. SHARPE (Ontario). The object of this Bill is to amend section 45 of the Indian Act. That section deals with line fences between a reserve or the land of an Indian and the land of a white man, and by it the question of fences is left solely to the discretion of the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs. We have a band of Indians in my constituency and the line fences between the white settlers and the Indians have been in disrepair for many years. Application has been made to the department, but no remedy has been applied. The object of this amendment is to make the band of Indians amenable to municipal by-laws relating to line fences. Subsection 3 provides:—

The said band or the said Indian is hereby made amenable to any provincial law or municipal by-law regulating the question of line fences where the reserve is situated, and the said band is entitled to the same rights and privileges and is subject to the same liabilities thereunder as any other person.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

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QUESTIONS.

[The questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.]

THE FARMERS' BANK.

Mr. FOSTER:

1. On what date and by whom was application for charter made by the provisional directors of the Farmers' Bank?

2. On what date or dates was the required deposit made with the Finance Department, and by whom and by what cash or cheques?

3. What steps were taken by the Treasury Board to satisfy the requirements of section 15 of the Bank Act?

4. What was the date of issue of the charter and to what persons?

5. Did the Finance Department or any of its officials, the Finance Minister or any other member of the government, receive any communications, verbal or written, previous to the issue of the certificate of the Treasury Board, cautioning, warning or suggesting inquiry as to the standing or character of the promoters, or the proceedings by which the deposit was procured?

6. If so, did the government make any inquiry or investigation with the view of satisfying itself as to the bona fides and sufficiency of the undertaking?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER:

1 and 4. The application for a charter for the Farmers' Bank of Canada was made by way of petition, presented to the House of Commons on the 27th May, 1904. James Gallagher and others were the petitioners. James Gallagher, of Teeswater; John Watson, of Listowel; John Ferguson and Alex. Fraser, of Toronto; Alex. S. Lown, of Drayton, all of the province of Ontario, were the provisional directors under the charter granted by parliament (cap. 77, Acts of 1904) on the 18th July, 1904. On the 20th July, 1905 (cap. 92, Acts of 1905) the life of the charter so granted was prolonged for an additional year, and on the 26th June, 1906 (cap. 94, Acts of 1906) the further period of six months from July 18, 1906, was added to the time within which the